

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 842

Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

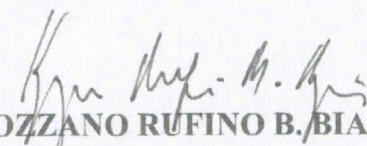
This bill provides for the creation of five (5) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court in the National Capital Judicial Region to be stationed in Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila. For this purpose, it seeks to further amend Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980".

The dispensation of justice requires, among others, that we should have enough courts to try cases. Clogging results when there are not enough courts to try cases. Nowhere is this very apparent than in the City of Muntinlupa. In a letter addressed to this representation, the honorable judges of the Regional Trial Court of Muntinlupa City averred:

"Various measures have been undertaken by the Supreme Court to help the courts unclog its dockets and ensure the expeditious settlement of cases like the establishment of Philippine Mediation Center to mediate and settle cases amicably between parties before going to adversarial proceedings; the settlement of cases by way of Judicial Dispute Resolution; or the implementation of continuous trial of cases. However noble the rationale of these remedies, it is very unfortunate that these remedies did not unburden our courts even to the slightest extent.

At present, RTC Muntinlupa City has seven (7) branches, two (2) of which are special courts – Family and Commercial Courts. As of July 2017, a total of 4,496 cases are pending before our courts. Notwithstanding our collective efforts to hear and decide cases expeditiously, our courts are flooded with drug-related cases as a result of the "war against drugs" initiated by the government, in addition to the regular cases that are filed before us. Our courts have difficulty coping with the heavy load of cases. With the limited number of court employees we have, our courts are overburdened."

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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AN ACT

CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN MUNTINLUPA CITY, METRO MANILA, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Five (5) additional Regional Trial Court branches for Muntinlupa City with seats thereat, are hereby created in the National Capital Judicial Region.

SEC. 2. The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches.

SEC. 3. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice shall immediately include in the Court's program, the implementation of this Act. The funding therefor shall likewise be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The funds necessary for the operation of the Courts herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the Courts and the appointment of its personnel.

SEC. 4. Section 14(d) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129 otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", as amended, and all other laws, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,